

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 066549
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 ERDA-05 AID-05 ACDA-07 DHA-02
NRC-05 MC-02 EB-08 TRSE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IGA-02
OMB-01 /093 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DKUX:EI
APPROVED BY NEA - AL R D L. ATHERTON, JR
S - MR. TWADDELL
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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O 251718Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 066549

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: CALL BY INDIAN AMBASSADOR ON THE SECRETARY

SUMMARY: DURING MARCH 24 MEETING, THE SECRETARY AND
INDIAN AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT PROSPECTS FOR BILATERAL
RELATIONS WERE PROMISING. THE SECRETARY ASKED THE
AMBASSADOR TO CONVEY OUR BEST WISHES TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT
AND ALSO MRS. GANDHI. U.S. HAD VIEWED INDIAN ELECTIONS
AND PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER WITH ADMIRATION. TARAPUR,
REPLENISHMENT FOR IDA V AND SALE OF A-7S TO PAKISTAN WERE
ALSO TOUCHED UPON. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 066549

1. KEWAL SINGH INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE RETURNING TO
INDIA ON CONSULTATIONS AND WANTED TO REPORT THE VIEWS OF
THE USG TO THE NEW INDIAN GOVERNMENT. HE WAS SURE IT
WANTED GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., NOTING THAT DESAI HAD
CALLED FOR "GENUINE" NON-ALIGNMENT AND STRENGTHENED TIES
WITH THE WEST AND WITH AMERICA. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO FELT

THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENTS WITH REGARD TO THE THIRD WORLD, INDIAN OCEAN NAVAL RESTRAINTS AND REDUCTION OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS WERE WARMLY RECEIVED IN INDIA.

2. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT WE HAD FOLLOWED WITH INTEREST AND ADMIRATION THE WAY INDIA HAD CONDUCTED ITS ELECTIONS

AND THE SMOOTH TRANSFER OF POWER. HE ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO CONVEY OUR HIGH REGARDS AND BEST WISHES TO THE NEW PRIME MINISTER ADDING THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE SENDING A MESSAGE SHORTLY. THE SECRETARY ALSO ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO CONVEY OUR GOOD WISHES TO MRS. GANDHI.

3. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT WE HAD MUCH IN COMMON WITH INDIA AND HE FELT THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR RELATIONS WERE VERY BRIGHT NOT ONLY BILATERALLY BUT ALSO IN THE MULTILATERAL AREA WHERE WE WERE WORKING TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO NUMEROUS PROBLEMS.

4. ON SPECIFIC BILATERAL ISSUES, KEWAL SINGH NOTED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WAS NO LONGER A PROBLEM. ON THE NUCLEAR QUESTION, THE AMBASSADOR WAS HOPEFUL THAT WE COULD MOVE AHEAD WITH FUEL SHIPMENTS FOR TARAPUR. HE THOUGHT THAT IF THE U.S. WANTED THE RETURN OF SPENT FUEL AND DISCUSSIONS ON NUCLEAR QUESTIONS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE AGREEABLE.

5. ON ARMS SALES, THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE WOULD NOT TRANSFER "SOPHISTICATED" ARMS TO SOUTH ASIA, IN PARTICULAR A-7S TO PAKISTAN. HE WAS CONCERNED THAT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 066549

THIS MIGHT SET BACK REGIONAL STABILITY TOWARD WHICH THERE HAD BEEN MUCH PROGRESS DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS. THE SECRETARY SAID WE WERE SENSITIVE TO INDIA'S CONCERNS ON A-7S AND WOULD KEEP THEM IN MIND.

6. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO MENTIONED THE IDA V REPLENISHMENT QUESTION AND INDIA'S HOPE THAT ITS SHARE WOULD REMAIN AT 40 PERCENT. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WAS NOW AGREEMENT FOR A REVIEW OF IDA LENDING CRITERIA. HE STRESSED THAT THIS DID NOT IN OUR VIEW MEAN ANY REDUCED NEED FOR ECONOMIC HELP FOR INDIAN DEVELOPMENT AND WE HOPED FOR "AS MUCH OR INDEED MORE ASSISTANCE" TO INDIA.

7. AS SESSION WOUND UP, KEWAL SINGH SAID THAT HE WAS CERTAIN A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT WOULD BE MOST WELCOME. HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD BE ABLE TO COME TO INDIA. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT INDIA AT SOME POINT.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: PFOR, IN, US, (SINGH, KEWAL)
To: NEW DELHI
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